

MINUTES – KOPPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

July 16, 2024 – 6:00 PM

Koppel Fire Hall

PRESENT

Mayor – Athena Pangikas-Miller

President – Tom Sobona

Vice President – Jeff Dengler

Anna Marie Plavecsky

Brett Plavecsky

Susan Krawchyk

Rich Serge

Suzanne Broge

Joe Budicak – Solicitor

Police Chief Warren and Sergeant Squicquero

GUESTS PRESENT

Dave Plavecsky, Skye Cider, Tim Brewer, Carol Shirilla, Joann Smith, Alan Chartrand, Cindy Chartrand, Sam Crangi, Michael Peters, Jim Krawchyk

MOTIONS

- A motion was made to accept the June 18th Council Meeting minutes and the July 2nd Working Meeting minutes. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to approve the payment of bills from the General Fund. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to reopen the agenda for Chief Warren to read the Lockout policy for the Lockout equipment being purchased. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to adopt police SOP #42 Lockout policy. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to adopt police SOP #43 Vehicle policy. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to authorize President Tom Sobona to sign the Assignment Event Judgement letter to Beaver County. All in favor and all approved.
- A motion was made to lease a second AED machine for the new police car. All in favor and all approved.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

- For the most part properties are being maintained. A property was addressed by council that needs to be looked at - 7452 Big Beaver Blvd, which is an empty house.
- Discussed the problem with overgrown trees on a neighbor's property. ...Solicitor Budicak said this could be a civil matter and needs to be worked out by the property owners.
- Discussed a car on 3rd Avenue without an inspection and the steps that need to be taken to remove it.

POLICE REPORT

- The citation report was handed out and discussed.
- Many tickets were given out near the Italian Club for parking violations.
- The LCB cited the Italian Club for serving alcohol after hours which resulted in a \$1500 fine.
- Discussed the possibility of requiring an Event Permit when a facility is hosting a big event. Many other municipalities and townships require such a Permit. This permit would require the facility to have enough parking and a safety plan.
- Possible ways to keep the noise down at the club and safe places to park when there is an event were discussed.
- A new SOP (#42) states the Lockout policy must be enforced and is for emergency situations only.

- A new SOP (#43) states that there will be no more eating in the police vehicles. Officers will be allowed to leave their shift once in an 8-hour period to get food and eat at the station. All vehicles must be cleaned after each shift and all vehicles should be left with $\frac{3}{4}$ of a tank of gas.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- There were no bills turned in by the Fire Department, which has been a continuing problem. President Sobona stated a meeting needs to take place to find out why these are not being given to the Borough secretary to pay.
- The Mayor had a meeting with the Fire District. Beaver Falls is hiring a firm to do a press release that can be distributed to all of the communities involved to learn more about the Fire District.

SOLICITOR REPORT

- The demolition of 5437 5th Avenue property has been finished and paid for. Judge Tocci entered a final judgement in Koppel Borough's favor for \$68,949.16 plus court costs. Solicitor Budicak will send an assignment event judgement letter to Beaver County saying that the owner owes Koppel Borough \$68,949.16 and that Koppel Borough is assigning the responsibility of getting the money from the owner to Beaver County. Proof of payment to Fryer Excavating has been sent to the Beaver County commissioners for reimbursement to Koppel.
- Solicitor Budicak will advertise the Noise, Nuisance House and Burning Ordinances. Amendments can be made if needed even after advertising.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- The Mayor and Chief spent many hours trying to apply for a grant for bodycams. However, there was not enough time to cover all the requirements. The other issue is there is a 50% match for the bodycams. They can possibly look into police technology grants next year.

MAINTENANCE REPORT – No report

ENGINEERS REPORT - No report

GUESTS – Michael Peters stated many of the problems still need to be addressed at the Italian Club – noise, profanity, and open until all hours of the night. Sergeant Squicquero read a letter from Chassidy Crawford about her issues with the Italian Club. When coming home from her job late on a Friday night...her driveway was blocked. She also has trouble sleeping due to the loud noise, cars turning around in her driveway, people walking thru her yard to get to the alley way and garbage being thrown in her yard.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Discussed putting a light beneath the American Flag at the park and the best way to do that.
- It was determined that the flags along Route 18 would remain up until Veterans Day.
- Koppel was not awarded the CDBG grant for the park. Still waiting to hear back about the DCED grant.
- More discussion on what first to build at the park and more ideas on how to fund it.
- The Mayor is working with our engineers to prepare for a meeting with PAW to discuss the requirements to hook up the portable bathroom that was purchased for the park.
- Discussed parking and logistics for the Hero Hogs Motorcycle Run on August 24th from 12 pm to 7 pm. Registration begins at 11 am.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm